

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03163 131934Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7116
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3163

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORE, AO, NI
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PARTICPATION OF ANGOLA IN LAGOS MIN-SUMMIT ON
RHODESIA

REF: USUN 00879

1. I WAS INTERESTED IN GARBA'S COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO EFFECT THAT ANGOLA LOOMED AS 'BIG QUESTION MARK' WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE AFRICAN MINI-SUMMIT IN LAGOS. WE HAD NOT RPT NOT ASSUMED THAT ANGOLA WOULD NECESSARILY BE INVITED, GIVEN FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE ON SIDELINES RATHER THAN FRONTLINE. I RECALL IN THIS CONNECTION NETO'S STATEMENT TO ME AND UK HIGH COMMISSIONER FALLE EARLY LAST MONTH IN RKANDA TO EFFECT THAT NAMIBIA WAS ANGOLA'S VITAL CONCERN WHEREAS RHODESIA WAS MUCH FARTHER AWAY AND OF MUCH LESS INTEREST(SEE FRENCH EMBASSY TELEGRAM NO. 80/9 FROM LUANAD 5 FEBRUARY, PASSED TO STATE/AF AND EMBASSY LONDON BY FRENCH.)

2. AS FOR 'APPARENT TENSION' IN ANGOLA--NIGERIAN RELATIONS, SEE LAGOS 1008 (JANUARY 24) AND LAGOS 0950 (JANUARY 23), AMONG OTHERS, FOR DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS POINTS AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. IN SUMMARY, NIGERIA FEELS ITS ALL-OUT
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ESPOUSAL OF THE MPLA SINCE LATE '75 HAS YET TO BE ADEQUATELY RECOGNIZED AND ACKNOWLEDGE BY NETO. FURTHERMORE, THEY FIND HIS EMIGMATIC AND INSECURE AND ARE EMBARRASSED BY THE CONTINUING DOMESTIC NEED TO EXPALIN TO NIGERIANS THE FMG'S SUPPORT OF SOMEONE SO INEFFECTUAL AND SO 'NON-BLACK.' FINALLY, THE FMG IS HIGHLY UNFOMFORTABLE WITH NETO'S CONTINUING NEED, WHICH NIGERIANS RECOTNIZE WITHOUT CONDONING, TO RELY SO HEAVILY ON FOREIGN

NON-AFRICAN MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

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